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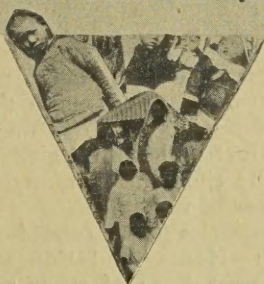
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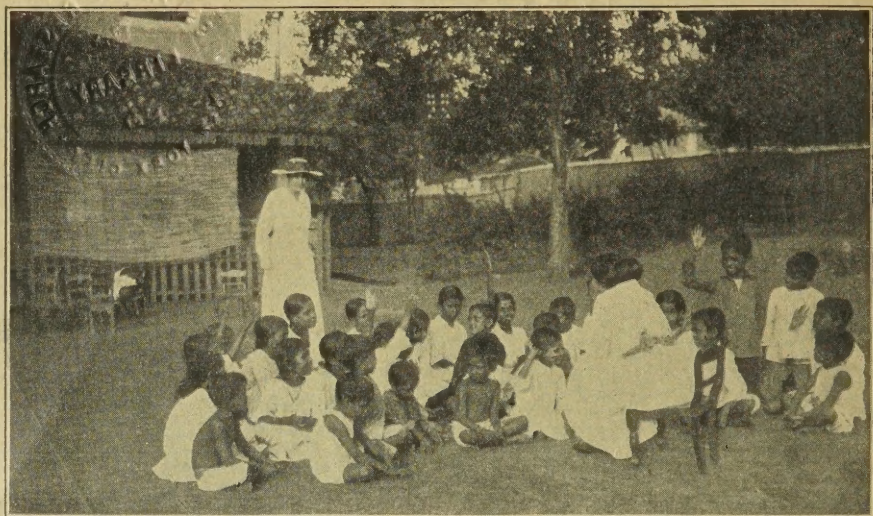
Children at Play



OVERSEAS YOUNG HOPEFULS



OVERSEAS & FOREIGN OFFICE: Y.W.C.A., 26, GEORGE STREET,
HANOVER SQUARE, LONDON, W. 1.



Fairy Stories in Ceylon.

Y.W.C.A. Play Centre

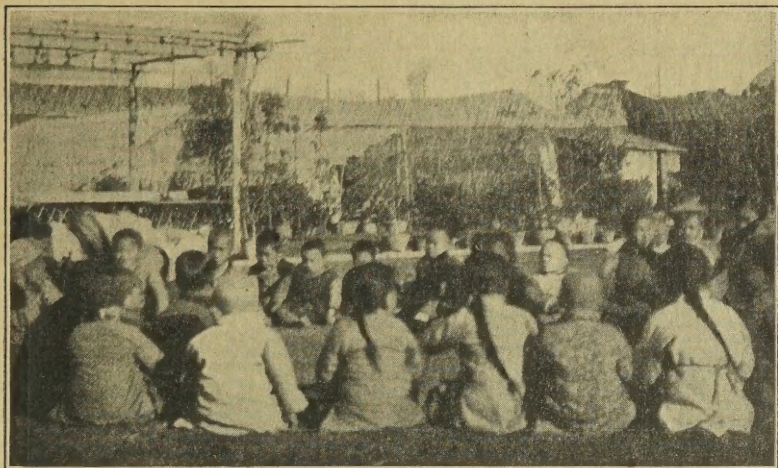
The Children of The Great War!

ONLY that great child-lover who gave us *Peter Pan* could set before us the story of children in the great war—yet even in his words how could we bear to read it? Too vivid to us already are their sufferings in bitter retreats and in devastated villages; the terror, misery, hunger and anguish which have been the gift of the twentieth century to thousands upon thousands of little children in Europe. “Rejoice with me,” said a mother to an English nurse who had shared with her the winter retreat in Serbia, “rejoice with me, my little one is dead.”

In every country at war children have been the nation's greatest hope. To “see the war through for the children's sake,” has been the resolute purpose of the men in the trenches, and the money which has found its way home to many of the Children's Institutions, with the instruction to “give the kiddies a good time,” tells us where the thoughts of many a soldier and sailor have been in all the stress of war.

And now that hostilities have ceased it is the Children's Charter, with “Health—Home—and Education” as its watchword, which is the dearest hope of every social reformer; and until that hope is realised a great war still goes on.

In every city, town, and village, the wide world over, the fight is being waged against sin, ignorance, disease and oppression,—with children as the prize. In England, public opinion, legislation and education are powerful allies in the good fight; in the Orient these allies are found, too often, in the



"Once upon a time . . ." in China.

Y.W.C.A. Play Centre.

enemy's ranks, and the campaign for the redemption of children may be a long and a bitter one.

But women in the West are not deaf to the cry of little children in the Orient, and the Young Women's Christian Association, in whatever county it is found, makes a place for them in its circle.

"I felt as the Pied Piper must have felt," said a Y.W.C.A. Secretary in the East, "for, looking round, I found I was being followed by a seemingly endless crowd of children, barefoot, eager, silent, amazed, and looking into their grave questioning faces I determined that, God helping me, no work to which I ever put my hand should exclude these little ones, for

*If of such is the Kingdom of Heaven,
It must be Heaven indeed.*

From another country comes the same appeal:

"The children of China! Have you thought of them, millions of them, the dark, dirty, narrow streets their only playground? We who know that play is vital to the development of character—that recreation is truly re-creation, must we not open play grounds for these children? They are waiting."

The Chinese Y.W.C.A. has now its own Physical Directors, and alongside the physical education work for girls and women is the effort to bring health and cleanliness and the joy of open air exercise to little children. Wealthy Chinese women have lent their gardens in some cases. Of the playground in Foochow a worker writes:

"Four days a week the playground is a little living moving



The Garden of Good Friends.

Y.W.C.A. Kindergarten, Tokyo.

picture of happy kiddies. From the highways they come, and from some of the free schools, over one hundred of them, the spirit of play, of genuine mischief, of happy childhood shining in their faces. More! is the cry. *More room. far more children, more helpers and more apparatus."*

India sends home the same request. The Play Centre opened by the Y.W.C.A. in Ceylon is the first of many which will be started throughout India as soon as funds and workers allow.

In Japan the Tokyo Y.W.C.A. has a charming Kindergarten for children, known as the Garden of good Friends, and a scheme is on foot to start a much needed Kindergarten for the children of young mothers who work in the factories in the industrial centre of Oji.

This movement depends for its success on those child-lovers in the West who will send workers, equipment and funds to develop the enterprise where most needed. In gratitude for children in happy English homes, in memory of the countless children who perished in the great war, will you help the Association to bring a new day of gladness and life to the children in the East?

*He who gives a child a treat
Make joy-bells ring in heaven's street,
And he who gives a child a home
Builds palaces in kingdom-come.*

Y.W.C.A. members should send their gifts in the usual way through their local branches. Contributions from other lovers of children will be gratefully welcomed by The Treasurer, Y.W.C.A., 26, George Street, Hanover Square, London, W. 1. Please mark your envelopes "Overseas."